

Medics, firemen run vehicle extraction drill

By Christy Lattimore
Staff Writer

The Grafenwoehr Medics and Fire Department teamed up to practice a motor vehicle accident rescue exercise Aug. 17 at the Grafenwoehr Fire Station.

When a motor vehicle accident has occurred on post, the first to arrive is normally the Fire Department. "As a firefighter, it is our job to make access to the victim possible for the medics. When we first arrive to the scene, we evaluate the area. We look to see if any fuel has

been released from any of the vehicles involved in the accident. If fuel has been released we remove the victim right away. If no fuel has been released, we cover the victim with a blanket head to toe so that no broken glass gets in their hair or eyes. We then proceed with the 'jaws of life' tool, to cut open the door and roof of the car. Meanwhile we keep water ready in case of a fire that may ignite. If there is any spilled fuel the use of the 'jaws of life' tool could possibly ignite a fire. If the victim is alert when ask them about any injuries that may have and we

try to keep them calm until the medics arrive. We really rely on the medical team on the scene and we help them when we are needed, said Proessl Herbert, Grafenwoehr Fire Station Chief. If a motor vehicle accident happens off post the firefighters job is still the same.

"If the German police arrive to an accident off post first, a German medical team is notified. If we are notified off post we are required to call two other fire departments and medical teams. If the Military Police are notified about an accident off post, they will arrive and the Mili-

tary medic team will be notified as well," added Herbert. Once the medical team arrives on the scene, the treatment of the victim can begin.

"When we arrive on the scene our first job is to get the victim stabilized. We place a neck brace and CED (body brace) on the victim, which enables body movement. We then proceed to move the victim on a backboard. Once we have done this, we can place them on a stretcher and put then into an ambulance. This is not an easy job because you have to act quickly,

but how you move the victim must be steady, and precise. One false movement can injure a victim worse then any injuries they may have received in the accident," said Staff Sgt. Ealey Lynwood, Grafenwoehr Health Clinic. Once a victim has been put in the ambulance, the team can go to work, to prepare the victim for the hospital arrival.

"During the ambulance ride to the hospital we check the victims vitals, and we get an IV started. If the patient is conscious we ask them how the accident happened and how they feel. If we know how an accident happened, and what symptoms the victim is experiencing, it helps us determine what other injuries may exist. We record all the treatment performed on the victim for their records.

The information is then passed on to the ambulance driver who calls the information in to the hospital. Our drivers speak English and German so all the information on the victims injuries and treatment can be communicated without any problems," said Staff Sgt. Frank Seitz, Grafenwoehr Health Clinic.

Even though these teams are professional and certified, they do encounter some obstacles when they arrive on the scene of an accident.

"When accidents happen within the community we ask that all on-lookers stay back from the accident. We understand that the community has good intentions when it comes to helping people in need.

"Communication is key. We as a team must be able to respond to a call as quickly, and prepared as possible. How we respond as a team can play a key factor in saving someone's life," added Lynwood.

In the end working as a team is the only way to get the job done correctly."



Photo by Christy Lattimore

A neck brace is being put around Sgt. Tonjaray Harris's neck during the simulated motor vehicle accident training session.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Terry Schmitz shares love for scouting with youth

By Christy Lattimore
Staff Writer

The 409th Base Support Battalion's highlighted volunteer for September is Terry Schmitz. Schmitz has shown selflessness service to the community by working with the Boy and Girl Scout Troops of both the 409th and 282nd Base Support Battalions.

"My voluntarism with the Girl Scouts is very important to me. The Girl Scouts is important to me because it has shaped me into the person I am today. Everything has a beginning, and my beginning started with the Girl Scouts," said Schmitz. She has been an active member of the Girl Scouts of America for 31 years.

Schmitz has lived in the Grafenwoehr community for two years. She is the Scout organizer and arranged Day Camp for 70 Boy Scouts within the three communities of the 100th ASG.

Schmitz is also a North Atlantic Girls Scout Master Trainer. She volunteers at the Grafenwoehr Elementary School.

She also volunteers some of her time with the Army Family Team Building program and the Cub Scouts. On Sundays, she can be found singing and playing guitar with the Grafenwoehr Catholic Community Choir.

She also enjoys cross-stitching, and basket weaving which she teaches twice a month at the Grafen-

woehr Arts and Crafts Shop.

Prior to Schmitz moving here, she was the neighborhood cookie manager, troop consultant, and Community Chair of the Scouts.

Terry Schmitz is the wife of Maj. Tony Schmitz, HHC 7th ATC.

They have four children, Michael, Katie, Erich, and Anna. "My full-time job is my kids and my volunteer work," Schmitz said.

In the next issue of the Training Times, the 282nd Base Support Battalion will highlight its volunteer.

For information concerning the Installation Volunteer Program call the ACS offices in Vilseck at 476-2650, the ACS office in Grafenwoehr at 475-8371 or the ACS office in Hohenfels at 466-2081.



Terry Schmitz